

Project AEBASIN

(Consolidated into Project AEFREEMAN)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 3820
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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PROJECT APPROVAL NOTIFICATION

PROJECT AERASTIN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA <input type="checkbox"/> FI/CI	<input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSIDY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT
ACTION		AREA	
	NEW PROJECT	DIVISION	
	AMENDMENT	SR	
IX	RENEWAL (FY 1962)	BRANCH	
	TERMINATION	2	
	EXTENSION	DESK	
	OTHER	CASE OFFICER	EXTENSION
		[]	3582

AUTHORIZATION			
APPROVING AUTHORITY	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED	FY	AMOUNT
DDP/C-PG 16 October 1961	\$ []	1962	
PERIOD OF APPROVAL		196	
FROM 1 July 1961 TO 30 June 1962	FINANCIAL CODE SYMBOL	2134-4008-0075	

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Renewal of Project AERASTIN approved in the amount of
[] or FY 1962.

SIGNATURE		DATE	
[]		19 OCT 1961	
DDP/PG			
DISTRIBUTION			
00T 7249			
1	FINANCE DIVISION	1	SSA-DD/S
1	BUDGET DIVISION	1	OPERATING DIVISION CHIEF OF SUPPORT
1	CASE OFFICER	2	DDP/PG

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(When Filled In)

PROJECT ACTION					PROJECT CRYPTONYM AEBASIN				
X	TYPE OF ACTION				FI/CI		X CA		
	NEW PROJECT APPROVAL		DIVISION SR						
	AMENDMENT NO.		FIELD STATION						
	RENEWAL FY 196 2		BRANCH SR/2			DESK Estonian			
	EXTENSION		CASE OFFICER C						
	TERMINATION		ROOM NO. 2613		BUILDING J		EXTENSION 3582		
CONCURRENCES OF DIVISION									
ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT		TYPED NAME (And signature)				DATE	COPY NO.	MEMORANDUM ATTACHED	
								YES	NO
									DATE
CSR/2/Baltic		C SIGNED							
CSR/2		C SIGNED							
SR/BF		C SIGNED							
SR/SS		C SIGNED							
SR/COP/CA		C SIGNED							
SR/SCOP		C SIGNED							
DC/SR		C SIGNED							
C/SR		C SIGNED				2 Oct 61	1		
CONCURRENCES OF OTHER COMPONENTS									
SA/GCA									
DDP/PG/CA		SIGNED C				11 Oct 61	1		
APPROVAL									
PERIOD		TOTAL AMOUNT		FY	AMOUNT				
FROM	TO			196	\$				
1 July 1961	30 June 1962	\$ C		1962	\$				
APPROVING AUTHORITY				SIGNATURE		DATE			
DDP/PG				SIGNED C		16 OCT 1961			

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SR/2-B-61-401

21 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, EDP/PG

SUBJECT : Renewal of Projects AEPOL, AEFLAG and AEBASIN

1. Projects AEPOL, AEFLAG and AEBASIN, which cover unified CA activities directed into Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, are submitted herewith for renewal for the period 1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962.

2. A strong interrelationship exists among the three projects in their specific objectives, their scope and the specific nature of the activity conducted under them. In effect, they comprise a single Baltic CA program of increasing significance; they are, however, submitted as separate projects for ease of handling from the administrative point of view.

3. Since early 1960, when legal travel from the free world to the Baltic States became possible, there has been an increase in the attention paid the unique position of these countries by the free world press. The public observance in 1960 of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Baltic takeover by the USSR also helped to attract the attention and sympathy of the free world toward the Baltic cause. More recently, the United Nations has been the scene of speeches by free world leaders in which the Baltic States were singled out as the prime examples of Soviet colonialism. The USSR seems to have displayed an unusual sensitivity to this charge. In addition, SR/2 continues to receive reports, mainly from legal travelers and recent immigrants from the Baltic States, which point up the deep-rooted anti-Soviet, anti-Communist and even openly pro-American attitudes of Soviet Balts.

4. An additional series of constant factors serves to illustrate that the question of the Baltic States is among those propaganda issues on which the USSR is particularly vulnerable, and suggests the feasibility of additional KUBARK propaganda exploitation of the Baltic question:

- a. The continuing non-recognition by the U.S. and other Western countries of the Soviet incorporation of the three states into the USSR.

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- b. Strong Baltic feelings of identification with and admiration for Western cultural institutions, coupled with an aversion toward enforced Russification of their homelands.
- c. The nature of the Baltic emigration in the free world. Numerically large and maintaining close contacts with the respective homelands, the free world Balts maintain a free Baltic culture. Their press is effective, and they continue to maintain their identities as distinct communities. Moreover, many of the senior emigre organizations and leaders, with whom SR/2 undertakes large portions of its CA program, have come to realize, largely through SR/2 efforts, the advantages of a united Baltic approach to a common problem, and are abandoning individual national attempts to make the Baltic cause felt. The creation and maintenance of a united Baltic approach to propaganda activities is a continuing objective of projects ANPOL, ANFIAG and ANBASIN. Some of the benefits of this cooperation are already being realized. The united approach is also being applied to the Baltic radio broadcasts which SR/2 supports in Madrid and Rome.
- d. The prospects for legal travel from the free world to the Baltic area have continued to improve. Just as important, the Soviet Government is permitting more and more Balts to travel to the West, where they can be more easily contacted. These conditions are expected to continue unless there is a worsening of relations as a result of the Berlin crisis.
- e. Recent reports from the Baltic area that certain staple foods are being hoarded, that deportations of anti-Soviet elements in sizable numbers is feared, and that the military conscription program is being stepped-up, all indicate the propitiousness of the present moment, and probably the foreseeable future, for an increase in the propaganda effort directed toward the Baltic area.

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f. It is increasingly evident that unhindered Soviet propaganda over the years may produce an apathy, particularly among the younger generation of Balts, toward conditions of Baltic life under the Soviet system. This makes even more imperative an increased effort to let the captive Balts know that they have not been forgotten by the West or the free world Balts. They must be told how the free world regards their plight, and how the United States stands in regard to not only the Baltic question but on every other issue of international significance. Their desire for independence from the USSR, their feelings of nationalism and their pride in their rich heritage must be kept alive.

5. Recognizing, from a CA-propaganda viewpoint, the validity of the Baltic issue and the potential benefits possible from its exploitation, SR/2/Baltic's unified CA program, in the three attached projects, will exploit that issue as fully as possible under our present circumstances.


Chief, SR Division

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PROJECT AEBASIN RENEWAL

A. Current Objectives.

Project AEBASIN is directed against the Estonian SSR in the following activities: radio broadcasts, mailing operations, controlled correspondence operations, CIA briefings for mounted and "piggy-back" REDSKIN operations, REDSKIN contact operations in the West, development of operations through Estonian emigre organizations, the acquisition, publication and distribution of propaganda literature for use in REDSKIN, mailing, and contact operations, exploitation of other media and phenomena such as demonstrations which have a propaganda potential, and the conduct of special operations and campaigns as required.

Through such activities, the following objectives are being pursued:

- (1) To preserve the national identity of the Estonian people, thereby helping them to resist assimilation into the Soviet society.
- (2) To maintain among the Estonian people an attitude of irreconcilability toward International Communism and the Soviet regime dominating Estonia today.
- (3) To maintain and enhance the pro-Western and pro-American orientation of the Estonian people.
- (4) To encourage revisionist tendencies among Estonian Communists.
- (5) To foster evolutionary changes by encouraging the Estonian people to seek continuous concessions from the Soviet regime in Estonia.
- (6) To contribute by all possible means to the growth of intellectual ferment among the Estonian people.
- (7) To expose the nature of Soviet colonialism, through the Baltic example, to the "uncommitted" nations, particularly to influence the attitudes of Afro-Asian students in the

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West and delegations to international organizations from Afro-Asian nations, on the over-all question of Soviet imperialism.

B. Changes.

Personnel: AKBASIN/15, an Estonian student leader in the U.S., has been recruited mainly for the propaganda field, to work in coordinated propaganda and contact programs with Lithuanian and Latvian student leaders. He also serves as a REDSKIN spotter.

An official of both the Estonian World Council and the Estonian National Committee in the U.S. has been recruited mainly to cooperate with counterparts in Lithuanian and Latvian organizations on a united approach to Baltic emigre propaganda in the Free World.

There have been no changes in AKBASIN operational mechanisms.

C. Intelligence Production.

The project has produced REDSKIN leads, as well as biographic and travel information of value to REDSKIN operations.

D. Effectiveness

Significant operational events:

- (1) Estonian-language broadcasts (15 minutes daily, repeated once) were continued over Radio Madrid. A series of letters from listeners in Estonia provided a partial indication of the program's technical and propaganda success.
- (2) A letter from a fictitious "Ants Salumets" in Soviet Estonia was produced by an AKBASIN contract agent and inserted into a German mail channel. The letter, protesting Soviet colonialism in the Baltic States, was published by a leading West German daily and was quickly amplified by its publication in Baltic emigre organs. Defector Viktor Jaanimets, through the efforts of AKBASIN/1, wrote a letter to leading FREEWORLD dailies quoting from the Salumets letter. The Estonian World Council then addressed a letter which quoted liberally from the Salumets letter to selected U.N. delegations, in an effort to bring the story of Soviet colonialism in the Baltic States to the attention of the "uncommitted" nations of the free world. Six of the U.S. delegations replied favorably to the EWU.

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E. Problems

No problems in security, cover or control arose during the project period.

F. Liaison

There is no liaison with any other governments, intelligence services or security services.

G. Interagency Coordination

There is no relationship with any other U.S. Government agencies.

H. Plans

- (1) SR/2/Baltic efforts to improve the quality of Radio Madrid's Estonian language broadcasts in relation to ODYOKE propaganda objectives will continue, specifically through a greater degree of cooperation by Radio Madrid Estonian section personnel with their Lithuanian and Latvian counterparts, and through a new series of specific propaganda directives prepared by ☐ ☐ . Closer control of Madrid's Estonian section will be established through the services of a full-time contract agent, ☐ ☐
- (2) Utilization of the theme of Soviet colonialism in the Baltic States will continue as a prime activity under AERASIN. The picture of the Soviet Union as a colonial power will be brought to the particular attention of Afro-Asian students in the United States through Estonian student groups and their leaders, in coordination with their Lithuanian and Latvian counterparts.
- (3) Efforts toward unifying Baltic emigre propaganda against the USSR will continue. With the participation of an Estonian element in the newly-formed board for Baltic propaganda, it is expected that a more efficient and effective program of Baltic emigre propaganda will be realized through the group's coordinated efforts.
- (4) OA support for REDSKIN missions will continue.

I. Costs

For the Past Period: ☐ ☐

For the Ensuing Period: ☐ ☐ (estimated)

(1) Personnel:

2 US/CA - AEBASIN/1	\$ 5,800.00
- []	4,200.00
2 FM/FA - AEBASIN/2	4,800.00
- AEBASIN/6	4,500.00

(2) Supplies, material and equipment:

Radio scripts and translations
Books and periodicals
Office rent and expenses:
 New York
 Madrid
Printing of propaganda booklets, pamphlets

(3) Other operational expenses:

Purchase of services and information
Area travel for field agents
Field case officer travel
Domestic travel for Headquarters case officers,
 contract agents and covert associates
Mailing operations
Special campaign exploiting the Colonialism
 issue
Entertainment of Covert Associates

(4) Payments to Estonian emigre organizations for
specific operations to include contacting legal
travelers, special radio programs, demonstrations,
political action by emigre leaders, etc.

TOTAL []

I CERTIFY THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

SR OBLIG REF No. []

SR ALLOTMENT No. 2134-4008-8075

[]
AUTHORIZING OFFICER